OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

INSPECTIONS UNIT

ALPR Audit
1st Quarter FY 24-25

Completed:10-24-2024

Purpose

DOI 1110-07 describes the management of automated license plate recognition (ALPR) and internet protocol camera systems. Specifically, the policy dictates “All data obtained and stored through use of ALPRs is considered a record of a criminal investigation pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 132-1.4 and shall be used solely for the purpose of attempting to prevent, solve, or detect violations of the law”. The policy also dictates storage and preservation of data. Per policy and general statute, the ALPR system shall be audited annually. The Inspections Unit has been tasked with conducting quarterly audits of the ALPR systems concerning their use and effectiveness.

Method

The Raleigh Police Department currently utilizes two ALPR systems, FLOCK and Vigilant LEARN. A representative from the Inspections unit maintains an administrative license to both systems for purposes of conducting periodic audits. There are five areas inspected during the quarterly audit: user accounts, devices, transactions/queries, reason codes, and outcomes. Inspection of these areas helps ensure compliance with NCGS 132-1.4 and NCGS 20-183.32, as well as providing data on the use and effectiveness of the systems.

For this audit a member of the Inspections Unit selects a 31-day period during the fiscal quarter and runs queries for each of the focus areas within the confines of that particular system. Not all information is available from each system due to the design of their programs.

Inspection

The Inspections Unit conducted an audit of the FLOCK and Vigilant LEARN systems. Data was pulled from each system for the month of August 2024 (8/1/24 – 8/31/24).

FLOCK

Users

On the date the data was pulled there were 368 users listed as active. 55 of those users had not logged into the system at all during the 1st fiscal quarter (7/1/24 – 9/30/24).

Devices

There are 28 active FLOCK devices. All 28 were online at the time of the audit.

Transactions

During the month of August 2024, there were a total of 3550 queries/searches of the FLOCK database. Approximately 1216 of these queries did not have a proper reason code listed. 77 different users are responsible for the improper reason codes. Proper reason codes are listed in the Patrol Resource Guide and include a case number, CAD incident number, CR number, or name. Proper reason codes are necessary to ensure compliance with NCGS 132-1.4.

Outcomes

During the month of August 2024, three cases were listed as being assisted or closed based on a notification from the FLOCK system. Out of those three cases, two vehicles were recovered, and two persons were arrested.

Vigilant LEARN

Users

On the date the data was pulled there were 465 users in the database. Only 63 of those accounts were in active status. 3 were closed and the others were all inactive. 53 users have logged in during the 1st fiscal quarter (7/1/24 – 9/30/24). 341 of the users have never logged into the database.

Devices

The database of cameras utilized in the Vigilant LEARN system are made up from a multitude of agencies and commercial entities all over the country. Raleigh PD does maintain 7 mobile devices installed on patrol vehicles.

Transactions

During the month of August 2024, there were 1653 queries run in the Vigilant LEARN database. 45 of the queries did not have a proper case number listed. Case numbers are necessary to ensure compliance with NCGS 132-1.4.

Outcomes

The Vigilant LEARN system does not maintain this type of information.

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Recommendations:

- Reiterate the importance of reason codes/case numbers for queries.

Please contact Lt. D.C. Painter or Sgt. B.M. Norton with any questions or concerns.